

Draft Minutes
of a Meeting of
Yatton Parish Council
Amenities and Properties Committee
20th March 2023

Held at Hangstones Pavilion, Stowey Road, Yatton, BS49 4HS.

Meeting commenced: 7.30 p.m.

Meeting ended: 9.03 p.m.

Present: Councillors: Jonathan Edwards, Wendy Griggs, Graham Humphreys, Chris Jackson, Robert Jenner, Steve Lister, Caroline Sheard and Bryan Thomas.

In attendance: Clerk, Councillor Steve Humphrey, grounds person Megan Thurgur, a representative from Yatton Horticultural Society and from Yatton & Cleeve Football Club and one member of the public.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP77/23: Apologies for Absence.

Apologies had been received from Councillor David Crossman and an apology for arriving later from Councillor Wendy Griggs as she had attended a Governors meeting at the school.

AAP78/23: To receive Councillors' declarations of interests and consider any written applications for dispensations (the Committee may only grant a dispensation to enable a member to speak in public participation).

NONE.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

AAP79/23: Public participation.

The member of the public spoke regarding the installation of banner posts at North End to promote events in the village. She had spoken with the Clerk who had emailed a North Somerset Council Highways Officer about permission to install them on the roundabout or on the verge outside Eaton Park. There had not yet been a response. The Clerk was to chase this. It was also mentioned that if permission was granted that the posts are positioned further apart than the ones at Glebelands for better display of the banners.

The representative from Yatton Horticultural Society spoke regarding the planting of trees on the village green which they considered would benefit from. The society were willing to fund three trees; silver birch with white or cinnamon bark were the suggested variety and would include mulch and protection.

The representative from Yatton & Cleeve Football Club offered to answer any questions the Committee may have about the dugouts under agenda item 7.

MATTERS FOR DECISION

AAP80/23: Minutes of the Meeting held on 23rd January 2023.

The minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2023 were approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

AAP81/23: If the Committee wishes to exclude the public the following resolution must be passed:

‘That the public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of agenda item(s) ... on the ground that publicity would be prejudicial to the public interest [by reason of the confidential nature of the business] or [for other special reason which must be stated].’

NOT REQUIRED.

AAP82/23: Parish Gardener and Groundsmen Report. (Agenda item 6).

Grounds person Megan Thurgur gave a report on behalf of the grounds team as follows:

- **Glebelands** – An area of garden on the exit to the car park by Glebelands needed renovation. It had been cleared and was ready for planting with new shrubs.
- **Other areas** – There were now eight compost bins built and installed around the parish council owned areas by the team. Megan Thurgur had completed a master composting course which trained advocates in composting to promote it through the areas where they live. The team had carried out work at North End allotments on the hedge and grass area which was prepared now ready for mulching of the hedge and seeding of the grass area. A new crabapple tree funded by the Horticultural Society had been planted at the War Memorial and the Ramblers funded bench was now installed on Cadbury Hill. Following extensive research by the team on the options available the new ride on mower had been ordered following Full Council 13th March.
- **Pitches** – Conditions had been challenging at times due to rain and snow. The general maintenance and marking up continued as conditions allowed. The pitches were in good condition considering the weather and the increased number of matches. Rock Road pitches may be re-seeded this spring at the expense of the Junior Football Club. The main pitch 1 at Hangstones may also be re-sized to accommodate the stipulations made by the League.
- **Various other matters**– All tools and machinery had been serviced ahead of the new mowing season. The flower meadows were being uncovered after winter ready for seeding.

AAP83/23: To consider a specification from Yatton & Cleeve FC for permanent dugouts adjacent to pitch one on Hangstones.

The football club had provided a specification for the dugouts which was displayed for the Committee along with the stipulations that had been made about the design at the meeting 17th October 2022. Megan Thurgur and the Clerk both made a number of observations about the design as follows:

- The height of the dugouts did seem rather high at the front (2057mm) and it was questioned if they needed to be this high. The football club representative thought it may be possible to make them lower but it was to ensure a good head height clearance.
- The plinth they were placed on should be flush with the grass to prevent a trip hazard and for ease of mowing.
- They should be painted a darker green inside and out and the corrugated roof material in green would be preferable to reduce the impact on the open vista of the fields.
- The portable dugouts in the compound must be removed straight after the last game at Hangstones.

The Committee considered the design and the comments that had been made by the Clerk and Megan Thurgur.

RESOLVED: to approve the design of the dugouts subject to the inclusion of the observations above being included in the design and the portable dugouts being removed asap after the last game of the season.

***** Councillor Wendy Griggs arrived during discussion of the following item.**

AAP84/23: To consider a request from Yatton Horticultural Society to plant at least one tree on the village green in memory of Queen Elizabeth II.

The grounds team were not fully in support of planting trees on the village green due to constraining the manoeuvrability of the mower on what is a raised area with a drop. They suggested an alternative location for silver birches on Rock Road fields. The Clerk reminded the Committee that the village green was jointly owned with the church so any changes to the area would need approval from them. Members discussed the proposal including instead creating a new border along the stone wall boundary from the new benches as a way to brighten up the location. The Committee, Megan Thurgur and the Horticultural Society representative were supportive of this idea. These two options were to be presented to the Horticultural Society.

RESOLVED: to not support the proposal for trees on the village green.

AAP85/23: To consider a request for a mixed recycling bin at Jones Close.

The Clerk advised the Committee of the background to the request for this bin. The grounds team were happy to empty it at this location as it hopefully would not include the problem waste they had experienced with the former bin on Arnolds Way (it would be reviewed if this occurred). However this would need to be on the basis of a general waste bin as the Parish Council could not offer a recycling option. The Clerk would contact Stowells in the first instance to see if the removed Arnolds Way bin was still available.

RESOLVED: to install a general waste bin at the junction of Horsecastle Farm Road and Jones Close near the bollards at the entrance to Jones Bridge.

AAP86/23: To review hall & pitch charges.

The Clerk had circulated Hangstones fees and also those of two other nearby venues for a comparison. The fees were very similar across all three halls.

RESOLVED: to retain the fees at the current rates for 2023-24.

AAP87/23: To organise the positioning of benches along the new section of Strawberry Line ahead of purchase and installation in the next financial year 2023-24.

The Clerk advised that there had been a number of requests for benches along the new section of Strawberry Line adjacent to Chestnut Park. There had also been two offers to purchase benches from an organisation and one in memory of a relative. The Parish Council also set aside some funds for a bench in the same location.

Permission had been granted in principle from North Somerset Council Public Rights of Way (PROW) team but they had asked for the details of where exactly they would be placed. Councillors Bryan Thomas and Chris Jackson and the Clerk were to look at the locations and check with North Somerset PROW where the bridleway was going to be to avoid any possible positions of conflict.

AAP88/23: To consider quotes for tree work at Rock Road and Heathgate.

Discussion ensued on the priority of these two tree work areas against other possible imminent work on the TPO Poplar (quote requested and being chased) and the ten Ash trees waiting for Ash Die Back assessment at Hangstones. As there was not a clear way to prioritise until the Ash Die Back assessment had been done the item was deferred to May Full Council or the next Amenities Committee meeting.

AAP89/23: To receive the Clerk's report. (Agenda Item 13).

- i) The new cemetery working group and finance members were meeting on April 3rd at 1.45 pm in Hangstones to discuss the next steps with the project including how to fund the project and the process for this.
- ii) The Clerk was to action the Broadcroft gate and flagpole early in the new financial year.
- iii) The work to remove the large water tanks in the office part of the building had been carried out. It was thought this would make a significant difference to energy bills.
- iv) The drinking and bottle filling fountain was still waiting for contractors to speak to each other about the detail and co-ordination of the work.

AAP90/23: Future agenda items.

A new brass commemorative plaque for fallen of wars since WW2.

Christmas Lights Working Group Report including North End Christmas Tree and additional lighting locations.

Parish Finger Posts.

To species label Parish trees and to create a tree trail.

Bat boxes on Hangstones.

New cemetery time capsules and opening ceremony.

New Flagpole at Glebelands.

To create a hard surface path into Hangstones play area.

Chairman

____/____/2023